

Sentence Structure Rules

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For the course LM-1002

- **All** sentences in English must follow a three element structure, which is:

Position 1
Subject

Position 2
Verb

Position 3
Object/Compliments/Extra Information

For example:

Adriana loves animals.

Pos 1. Pos 2. Pos 3.

OR

Monica is working a lot.

Pos 1. Pos 2. Pos 3.

- ◉ For negative sentences, you need to add the negative particle NOT, but following some rules:
 - > If you have the verb to BE, add the negative particle after the verb to BE. For example: Meli **is** short. → Meli **is not** short.
 - > If the main verb is another verb, you need to add the auxiliary DO/DOES right after the subject, and then add the negative particle. For example: Celeste **speaks** a lot. → Celeste **does not** speak a lot. **Note:** you do not repeat the **-S** in the verb after adding **DOES**.
 - > For sentences with auxiliaries (like the progressive), add the negative particle after the auxiliary. For example: Bill is studying French. → Bill **is not** studying French.
 - > With the verb to be and the auxiliary DO/DOES, you can contract the negative particle into:
ISN'T/AREN'T/DON'T/DOESN'T

- ◉ For **yes/no** questions, you must follow some special rules:
 - > If a form of the verb to **BE** is present, then move that verb to the first position.
- ◉ For example: John **is** in the house. → **IS** John in the house?
 - > If the main verb of the sentence is another verb, then add **DO/DOES** in the first position.
 - > For example: They **have** two cars. → **DO** they have two cars?

- > **Note:** If the subject is the third person singular (**HE, SHE, or IT**), then you do not need to include the **-S** at the end of the verb in the question.
- > For example: John **works** at night. → **DOES** John **work** at night?
- > If you have an auxiliary (like in the progressive), then move the auxiliary to position 1.
- > For example: Ana **is** living in Guadalupe. → **IS** Ana living in Guadalupe?

- For **WH questions**, add the **WH word** in position 1, followed by any **auxiliary** or form of the verb **BE** that you need. Also, you must eliminate the part of the sentences for which you are asking.
- For example:
 - > The store is in Curridabat. → **Where is** the store?
 - > Andrea teaches math. → **Who** teaches math?
 - > Andrea teaches math. → **What does** Andrea teach?
 - > The math class is at 7. → **When is** the math class?

Practice

- Turn the following sentences into negative sentences and yes/no questions, then ask a WH question (you choose the WH word):
 - > Karen loves animals.
 - > Roberto teaches Japanese.
 - > My friends are working a lot.
 - > The class is very fun.
 - > Bill and John live in a house.